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United States
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WORKING TOGETHER

CALIFORNIA INDIANS AND THE FOREST SERVICE

ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT 1996

United States
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Agriculture



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MESSAGE FROM G. LYNN SPRAGUE, REGIONAL FORESTER

Once again I am pleased to share with you the Region's Tribal Relations Program Accomplishment Report. This report reflects how the Region and Tribes are working together to respond to issues and opportunities here in California.

I am proud that the Forest Service is a partner to Tribal Governments and Communities. We have much to offer and gain from our collaboration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Sprague', with a stylized, flowing script.

G. LYNN SPRAGUE

REGIONAL OFFICE



During the past year, our Tribal Relations Program (TRP) focused on increasing knowledge and skills within the Region and expanding opportunities to work with Tribal Governments and Communities. Highlights included:

▲ The Hoopa and Yurok Tribes hosting the Regional Management Team on their reservations to discuss government-to-government relationships. This was the first meeting of its kind.

▲ The Region collaborating with Bureau of Land Management and National Park Service to hold the first interagency tribal relations training program for line officers.

The Region continues to emphasize protocol agreements that help define effective consultation. The Regional Office entered into a partnership with the National Indian Justice Center to develop a consultation handbook. We now have over 20 agreements with Tribal Governments and organizations.

Please don't hesitate to contact me or others listed in this report if you would like more information or would like to discuss the activities and projects mentioned. This report is meant to be used!

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ANGELES NATIONAL FOREST



The Forest Tribal Government Relations Manager and the Native American Special Emphasis Program Manager coordinated the following activities:

NATIVE AMERICAN BOTANICAL STUDY

The Forest Botanist, in collaboration with local Native Americans, developed a location atlas, and compendium/source guide for plants of economic, ceremonial, and cultural interest to the Native American community. The purpose of the atlas is to record, after field verification, locations of these plants of concern. This information will be provided to the local Native American community as the atlas will be curated at the planned Native American Cultural Center.

NATIVE AMERICAN BOTANICAL FIELD TRIPS

Forest personnel have organized several field trips on-Forest with members of the local Native American community to view plant areas as well as identify areas for "adoption" by the Native Americans to promote the propagation of basketry plants. The Interagency Environmental Education Exhibit (which the Forest is a partner) at the Los Angeles County Fair provided basketry material to local weavers for educational uses.



Members of the Gabrielino-Tongva Nation met with Angeles National Forest personnel to identify traditional basketry plants.

ANGELES NATIONAL FOREST CONTINUED

FESTIVALS

The Forest Tribal Government Coordinator, along with the Forest Information Van staffed by members of the California Environmental Project, participated in Juana Maria's Gathering of the Acorn People sponsored by the Gabrielino-Tongva.

The Gabrielino-Tongva Nation also held a Pinyon Gathering Festival on Forest on the Valyermo Ranger District.

NAGPRA TRAINING WORKSHOP

The Forest, in conjunction with the American Indian Studies Center at UCLA, sponsored a NAGPRA Training Workshop for the Native Americans of southern California to fully explain NAGPRA and their role within it.

ASSISTANCE

The Native American Special Emphasis Program Manager worked with the Southern California Indian Centers to outreach the large urban Native American population for employment.

Spiritual leaders were aided, through the making of contacts and obtaining the necessary paperwork, to obtain Eagle and Condor feathers from USFWS. Arrangements were also made to allow ceremonies such as sweats to occur on-Forest with a respect for privacy.

TRIBAL GOVERNMENT TO GOVERNMENT

Several meetings were held throughout the year and were attended by the Forest Supervisor, District Rangers, Forest Planning and Resource Officer, Forest Lands Staff, Tribal Government Coordinator, Native American Special Emphasis Program Manager, and other field personnel. New contacts, especially in the Gabrielino-Tongva community, were developed at these meetings.

The Forest Tribal Government Coordinator participated in a seminar sponsored by the National Park Service that was designed to involve the Gabrielino-Tongva groups in an ethnographic study as it relates to the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area. Based on this seminar, the focus of the study was expanded to include the Forest.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Forest and the Gabrielino-Tongva Nation was reviewed and finalized. The MOU outlined the Forest Policy for the gathering of forest resources by members of the Gabrielino-Tongva Nation.

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ELDORADO NATIONAL FOREST



AMADOR COUNTY FAIR

The Eldorado National Forest participated with four other organizations—California Department of Parks and Recreation, Chaw Se State Park Association, El Dorado/Amador County Indian Education Program, and the Sierra Native American Council—in a booth at the Amador County Fair. The booth has become a yearly cooperative project for the organizations, and this year the display received the “Best in Show” award.

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AISES CONFERENCE

The Eldorado’s Native American SEPM, Pete Bunting (now retired), represented the Region and the Forest Service at the National Conference of the American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES). This professional society for American Indians is working with the Regional Program Manager in developing a national recruitment approach using the AISES internet location.

BIG TIME CELEBRATION AT SHINGLE SPRINGS RANCHERIA

Through a cooperative agreement, the Eldorado provided financial assistance for the second annual Big Time Celebration of the Shingle Springs Rancheria. In addition, Forest Heritage personnel and the Native American SEPM staffed an information table and display throughout the two-day event.

THE CALIFORNIA SESQUICENTENNIAL

The Eldorado worked with Coloma State Park and local Native American groups to coordinate participation in Sesquicentennial commemorative events planned for the fall of 1996 and summer of 1997. 1997 has been chosen as the year to highlight the existing cultures which flourished in California prior to the Gold Rush, and to recognize the impacts on Indian people that resulted from the influx of gold seekers.

CALIFORNIA EPA PHASE 1 HERBICIDE RESIDUE STUDY REPORT

Eldorado’s Heritage Staff coordinated and hosted a meeting for Cal EPA’s Phase 1 Herbicide Residue Study report of findings. The report identified the presence or absence of herbicide residues in the test plots for the selected plant materials. In addition, Phase 2 of the study was described, and Native Americans’ preferences were solicited for plant species on which to focus for more detailed studies. The purpose of this study, funded by the Forest Service, is to scientifically determine whether herbicide residues are present in plants, and plant parts, used by Native Americans.

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ELDORADO NATIONAL FOREST CONTINUED

INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE

Georgetown District Archaeologist prepared interpretive signage for the Big Meadow Campground in cooperation with the local water agency. Shingle Springs Rancheria's tribal representative took an active part in reviewing and editing the text, and contributed substantively to the final product. A dedication ceremony is planned for early summer.

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INYO NATIONAL FOREST



COSO JUNCTION INTERPRETIVE KIOSK

Noreen Sellberg and Mary Wuester of the Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone Tribe are the Inyo National Forest American Indian SEPMS and members of the Tribal Relations Team. The Scenic Highway Committee asked if, as Native American employees, they had ideas about Native American sites or points of interest. Together, they developed a plan to dedicate the historic march of 1863, when the Paiute Indians of the Owens Valley were marched out and forced to walk 225 miles to Ft. Tejon. Mary and Noreen conducted research throughout Owens Valley with tribal elders and other knowledgeable tribal members. This research could not have been easily accomplished if not for the fact that they themselves are American Indians affiliated with the tribes of Owens Valley.

An interpretive kiosk has been designed and is in the process of manufacture. It will be installed at the Coso Rest Area along Highway 395, located between Lone Pine and Ridgecrest, California. It contains illustrations of traditional art work, petroglyphs, baskets, Numu shelters, and dress, along with the story of the march to Ft. Tejon in the words of the descendants of those who were taken from Owens Valley.

A portion of the story goes as follows: "We the Numu (pronounce "Noom," which is our word for people), or Owens Valley Paiute, as we are native to the broad and beautiful Valleys here. What you see may look stark and dry, but long before the Whites came, we understood this land, and in season we worked hard to harvest its gifts. This land was given to us by our creator. This land is one of abundance. This land has been and will ever remain our home..."

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KLAMATH NATIONAL FOREST



ONGOING INTERAGENCY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Klamath National Forest and the Karuk Tribe of California have entered into a partnership demonstration project that would help the Forest and Region gain a better understanding of how to enhance the quality of cultural materials, promote the health and vitality of oak grove resources, apply traditional site-specific concepts, and improve the diversity and ecological health of cultural landscapes. Good stewardship would be demonstrated by acknowledging the legacy of the historic contexts and understanding the potential benefits of traditional systems. Documented information would then be made available to agencies and National Forests.

The Happy Camp and Ukonom/Orleans District Rangers and members of the Karuk Department of Natural Resources continue to conduct monthly meetings for proposed project planning, design, and execution of most projects and work activities. Discussions may include timber sales, prescribed burns, recreation site improvement and maintenance, and land use permits.

A Special Use Permit has been given to the Karuk Tribe of California for the specific use of 26.5 acres of land and existing facilities at the Somes Bar Administrative Site. The permit is to be issued for the primary purpose of protecting and preserving the Native American traditional religious ceremonial site of Katamin. It was the intent of both parties, in pursuing special use permits or other land use agreements, that as the Forest Service relocates off Katamin, the Karuk Tribe shall, to the fullest extent practicable, have full tribal use of Katamin. This agreement also set forth the process for initiating a land transfer proposal between the Karuk Tribe and the U.S. Forest Service.

The Forest and the Karuk Tribe of California have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to establish and maintain a mutually beneficial strategy for incorporating Tribal Governments into incident management organizations involved in the suppression of wildfires. This agreement will apply to Klamath National Forest lands that are also within the aboriginal territory.

ETHNOGRAPHIC STUDY

The Forest is in the second phase of a contract with Cultural Solutions of Ashland, Oregon, and the Karuk Department of Natural Resources to address tribal issues related to watershed analysis within Karuk aboriginal territory. While maintaining intellectual property rights, individual and family interviews will subsequently serve as a practical reference to identify traditional and contemporary use areas within an ecosystem and indigenous management framework.

NATIVE AMERICAN ACTIVITIES

Paula McCarthy, Native American Special Emphasis Program Manager, and Suzanne Burcell, Executive Director for Karuk Community Development Corporation, have been instrumental in coordinating trail and fisheries projects in partnership with the CCC, AmeriCorps, the Karuk Tribe, and the community of Happy Camp. This was possible through state funding.

WORLD RENEWAL CEREMONIES

Every summer, coordinated with moon phases, the Karuk hold their ceremonies within specified areas of the Klamath River corridor. The Forest continues to coordinate ceremonial activities with river user groups such as rafting company entities. Leaflets and posters are used to inform user groups of the cultural sensitivity of river use during ceremonial use.

KLAMATH NATIONAL FOREST CONTINUED

INTERPRETIVE EXHIBIT

Heritage Enhancement Challenge Funds have been used in partnership with the Forest and the Karuk Tribe to design and construct interpretive panels to portray the importance of ceremonial concepts to the public and to mitigate conflicts between ceremonial observers and rafting visitors. The exhibit is located at the mouth of Indian Creek.

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LASSEN NATIONAL FOREST



EMPLOYMENT TRIBAL AND TRAINING AGREEMENT

The Lassen continued to apply the “Employment Tribal and Training Agreement between Pit River Tribe and Forest Service, Lassen National Forest.” The Hat Creek RD utilized the agreement to contract with the Pit River Tribe to maintain trails.

MOUNTAIN MAIDU SPRING RITE (WEDA)

The Weda continues to be a tremendous success. The Weda is regarded as the Bear Dance and is held the second Sunday of June at the Roxie Peconom Campground located on the Eagle Lake Ranger District. A new arbor was constructed in a new location along with a new pit barbeque with safety features. Earthwork was needed and provided by the Eagle Lake RD. This Bear Dance gains the support of many local merchants who in turn benefit from the hundreds of visitors who attend the Weda.

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MENDOCINO NATIONAL FOREST



NOME CULT TRAIL DEDICATION

On three consecutive Saturdays—September 7, 14 and 21—Northern California American Indian tribes joined with the Mendocino National Forest for three days of activities to commemorate the 133rd anniversary of the Nome Cult “Trail of Tears,” the 1863 forced relocation of Indians from Chico into Round Valley. The land over which they traveled is now the Mendocino National Forest.

The public was invited to join with the descendants as they re-created the march by walking or otherwise traveling the trail route between the events. The theme for the commemoration was “Honor Their Memory... A Path Not Forgotten.” The commemoration was sponsored by the Paskenta Band of Nomlaki Indians, Berry Creek Rancheria, Round Valley Indian Tribes, Chico Rancheria and the Mendocino National Forest.

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Native American dancers performed as part of the Nome Cult Trail activities.

VOLUNTEERS HELP EXPLORE THE PAST ON UPPER THOMES CREEK

The Paskenta Band of Nomlaki Indians participated in Mendocino National Forest's Thomes Creek Passport in Time (PIT) project during the summer of 1996. Passport in Time is a national USDA Forest Service program that provides the public an opportunity to be involved in the study of the nation's past. Members of the Tribe earlier had expressed an interest in learning more about their ancestors, so the Forest planned a PIT project that would give them a hands-on learning experience. About ten members of the tribe joined more than 70 volunteers from the public, including several other American Indians, in conducting archaeological excavations at an upland Nomlaki occupation site. This joint effort was very successful, and has helped foster a good working relationship between the Forest and the Tribe.

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MENDOCINO NATIONAL FOREST CONTINUED

AMERICAN INDIAN FIREFIGHTING CREW

The Mendocino National Forest, Covelo Ranger District, in cooperation with the Round Valley Tribes, organized and trained a stand-by organized firefighting crew. The District provided the training, supervision, and technical assistance in putting the crew in place. Transportation and crew bosses were provided by the Forest Service during fire assignments. The crew of 20 were dispatched twice to three different fires. Two Forest Service Crew Bosses (Tony Kanownik and George Atwood) reported this crew to be top notch.

The training and experience provides the crew with valuable knowledge, skills and abilities, and prepares crew members for job opportunities in the field of firefighting and natural resource protection.

The organized crew provides jobs to community members and helps put money back into Round Valley's local economy.

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MODOC NATIONAL FOREST



Management activities of Modoc National Forest lands are within the aboriginal territories of three groups of American Indians: Modoc, Pit River and Northern Paiute. In an effort to fulfill federal trust responsibility, the Forest maintains a government-to-government relationship and consults with four federally recognized tribes: The Pit River Nation, Ft. Bidwell Paiute Tribe, Cedarville Rancheria and The Klamath Tribes in Oregon. This past fiscal year, the Tribal Government Program focused primarily on project implementation, legal responsibilities related to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), and program delivery.

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

▲ Continued meetings and field trips for consultation with the Klamath Tribes on proposed geothermal development in the Medicine Lake Highlands resulted in an ethnographer for EIS preparation. The Tribes' concern is to document contemporary use of the Highlands for analysis of effects.

▲ Conducted meetings and field trips for consultation with the Pit River Tribe on proposed geothermal development in the Medicine Lake Highlands.

▲ Consulted with Pit River Tribe and Ft. Bidwell Indian Community Council on permitting use of outfitter guides and possible recreation use of administrative facilities.

▲ Consulted with and held field trips for Cedarville Rancheria, Pit River Tribe and Ft. Bidwell Indian Community Council on proposed Payne Peak telecommunications site.

▲ Consulted with Ft. Bidwell Indian Community Council on Larry Flat, Shinn and Mill Salvage Sales.

▲ Consulted with Cedarville Rancheria on proposed Parker Creek Plantation Forest Health thinning project.

NAGPRA

▲ Consulted with Hammawi Band Leader of the Pit River Tribe about an unassociated funerary item found during an archaeological survey for a brush disposal project.

▲ Consulted with Klamath Tribes as result of burial/cremation sites found on Forest.

▲ Continued consultation with the Ft. Bidwell Indian Community Council which resulted in the return of a ceremonial pipe to the Tribe. The pipe is currently in the Forest curation facility at the request of the Tribe until they build their own facility.

PROGRAM DELIVERY

▲ Assisted Ft. Bidwell Indian Community Council's administrative secretary with information regarding the application of Privacy Act guidelines.

▲ At the request of the Tribal Administrator, sent a letter of support for inclusion to a grant proposal. The proposal is for a cultural and tribal community building for the Ft. Bidwell Paiute Tribe.

▲ Provided information to Pit River Tribe and Ft. Bidwell Indian Community Council on economic development opportunities.

MODOC NATIONAL FOREST CONTINUED

OTHER

▲ Following a major fire, consultation and field trips began with the Atwamsini Band of the Pit River Tribe to plant trees and bitter brush for restoration of a 35-acre archaeological site. The site includes a dance house pit and prayer seats. Given the significance of the site, the Forest probably would not have been able to rehabilitate this portion of the fire. The band felt rehabilitation was important. Consultation meeting notes and a letter of support from the Band was sent to the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO). SHPO concurred and planting was done in a mosaic similar to growth shown on aerial photos before the fire. Planting was done on a mutually selected day with Forest employees and Band members.

▲ Coordinated with the Pit River Tribe and the Klamath Tribes to have consultant/monitors on the Horse Fire and Ambrose Complex working with Class II and Class I Interagency Fire Teams assigned to those incidents.

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PLUMAS NATIONAL FOREST



BASKETRY MATERIALS PLANTED

On November 3, 1996, 3000 seedling plugs of deergrass (*Muhlenbergia rigens*) were planted in a portion of the Right-of-Way (ROW) of the PG&E transmission lines south of Challenge, CA. These grass plugs were planted by a combination of Forest Service employees, representatives from local Native American groups, Forest Service volunteers, and U.C. Davis plant ecology doctoral students. A number of people from the Chewiem Pom weavers group participated. The inception of the deergrass planting was as a demonstration plot to see if this grass species becomes effectively established as a partial ground-cover in the ROW, helping PG&E reduce the amount of tree seedling clearing currently being done every 3 years or so under PG&E transmission lines. A benefit of using the deergrass was to propagate a species that local California Indian basketweavers could gather.

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HUMAN RESOURCE PROGRAMS

The Plumas National Forest continues to build and expand, using its Human Resources Program potential. Many American Indian youths from around the United States have participated, or currently are participating, in the programs. Fire, heritage, timber, hydrology, wildlife and other resources have all benefited. Through the training and experience acquired in this program, many of these people have been hired on the PNF in temporary positions.

Tribal Governments, partnerships with tribal councils and organizations include the California Indian Manpower Consortium, Private Industry Council, and other JTPA Employment/Training Centers.

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RURAL DEVELOPMENT

USFS Cooperative Forestry Assistance under the Economic Recovery Program awarded a grant, in 1995, to a consortium of Maidu communities from the Greenville (Indian Valley) area of Plumas County. The request for a grant extension of one year (to September 30, 1997) was approved last October. Work continues on all aspects—Maidu Place Names, Living Village, and Riparian and Forest Land Stewardship—of the planning grant.

PLUMAS NATIONAL FOREST CONTINUED

NORTHERN SIERRA INDIAN DAYS

The 7th Annual Northern Sierra Indian Days event focused on the theme of "Rekindling The Spirit—Restoring Our Health."

The PNF is continuing involvement with the 8th Annual Northern Sierra Indian Days by participating on the steering committee, developing the 1997 Challenge Cost Share Agreement, and staffing the PNF Program exhibit booth. As of this writing, planning for the 1997 event has just gone into full swing.

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Poster Artwork by Judith Lowry

7th Annual

Northern Sierra Indian Days

Maidu Basketry Demonstrations
Arts & Crafts, Food & Information
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SIERRA NATIONAL FOREST



CONSULTATION PROTOCOL BEING DEVELOPED

The Sierra National Forest initiated a program designed to eventually develop formal consultation protocol with the tribes traditionally associated with Forest land. To begin this program, Forest Service/Tribal workshops will be held. The workshops are intended to be held with all local tribes and protocol established with each tribe. Part of preparing for the workshops has involved developing a workbook for the tribes that contain, in part, information about laws and Forest Service projects and related procedures that might effect tribal interests. One workshop has been completed with the Picayune Rancheria. Also participating in the workshop presentations is Caltrans Archaeologist, Dr. Karen Nissen.

TRIBAL STRUCTURES RELOCATED

On the Kings River Ranger District, a 10-year Special Use Permit issued to the Haslett Basin Traditional Committee in order for tribal members to conduct religious traditional ceremonies, was modified to include several more acres within their traditional use area. In recent years, tribal structures, such as their sweathouse and dance arbor, have become increasingly vandalized. It was agreed to by tribal members and the Forest Service to relocate the structures to a more safe location and to limit public access. Forest Service personnel assisted in the move which was coordinated by the Tribal Relations Program. The Haslett Basin Committee are particularly grateful for the hard work done by Marie Dominguez, a member of the Sierra American Indian constituency, in helping to coordinate much of the move to the new location.

The Haslett Basin Traditional Committee are members of the Western Mono Tribe that conduct the annual Bear Dance in Haslett Basin. This group is one of a number of groups that participate in the celebration of the traditional bear dances that are held annually throughout the Sierra Nevadas by various tribes.

ADDRESS POSTS INSTALLED ON COLD SPRINGS RANCHERIA

A project worked on in 1996, and completed in May of 1997, was the installation of address posts in front of the homes of elderly and disabled members of the Cold Springs Rancheria. The Cold Springs Rancheria sits within a basin in which there is only one road that leads into the rancheria from the main road. It has been recognized that in the event of a disaster, such as catastrophic fire, a plan needed to be in place to evacuate everyone safely. The address posts are specifically designed to show which home may need more attention. The address post project was created by the Kings River Ranger District and installed by members of the American Indian/Alaska Native Special Emphasis Program of the Sierra National Forest. Several members of the constituency work with the Fire Management Program.

GATE DONATED TO PROTECT SIERRA MONO MUSEUM

The Sierra Mono Museum, which is located in the town of North Fork and a short driving distance from the Minarets Ranger Station, was broken into and robbed of a large number of invaluable baskets. The museum is owned and operated by members of the Western Mono tribe and all of the baskets were from local family collections. Following the robbery, a Sierra Mono Museum representative contacted the American Indian/Alaska Native Special Emphasis Program Manager, who worked at the Minarets Ranger Station, to check about the possibility of acquiring a used gate from the Forest Service. The gate would be placed at the entrance to the museum parking lot and would serve to block vehicle access to the building after museum hours. It was hoped that this would be one step in deterring future robberies.

SIERRA NATIONAL FOREST CONTINUED

District Ranger Chris Nota responded to this request by donating the gate, the materials, and the manpower necessary to install the gate at the museum. The installation involved three men and a half day of work. Noteworthy thanks were expressed to Art Transberg and David Verduzco, Forest Service employees, for their efforts in this project. The gate serves as a pleasant reminder of how the agency and tribes can work together to protect the cultural heritage of the local area, a heritage that is meaningful to many.

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SIX RIVERS NATIONAL FOREST



SALT CREEK PASSPORT IN TIME PROJECT

Over the last three summers, the Six Rivers National Forest has successfully partnered with three different federally recognized tribal groups to offer Passport in Time (PIT) projects aimed primarily at American Indian Youth. This year, the project again focused on tribal youth, but also invited PIT volunteers from across the United States. Through a Participating Agreement, the Round Valley Indian Tribes and the Forest Service conducted PIT project over three days during June 1996. The project was carried out by a diverse crew of 38 individuals, including 10 youth and 6 adults representing the Round Valley Indian Tribes and local Wailaki, 14 PIT volunteers, and 8 Forest Service employees.

The project involved test excavations at two archaeological sites, a visit to the historic Raglan Homestead for interpretation of a large pit feature believed to be associated with the ethnographic Big-Head Dance, and two campfire programs discussing cultural values.

The undertaking was an overwhelming success for all participants. Perhaps the most rewarding experience for all was the interaction and dialogue with tribal members concerning traditional and contemporary values of American Indians. An article on the project appeared in the Winter 1996-Spring 1997 PIT Traveler.

PIT PROJECT FEATURED

During winter 1995, an article on our 1994 Passport in Time project at Mus-yeh-sait-neh with the Tolowa of Del Norte County appeared in InterpEdge, an international journal on interpretation. In fact, a photo of one of the Tolowa youth involved in the project appeared on the cover of the journal.

FOREST HOSTS REGIONAL LEADERSHIP TEAM FIELD TRIP

The Forest, partnered with the Yurok and Hoopa Tribes, hosted the Regional Leadership Team on a one day field trip highlighting the Tribal Government and Heritage Resources Programs Regionally and on our Forest. We addressed how the two programs interact in addressing American Indian issues and programs on the Forest. The Hoopa and Yurok Tribes provided information on their programs and issues and highlighted cultural values. The day ended with a traditional salmon feed and tour of a reconstructed Yurok village site at Patricks Point State Park.

GRAVE LOCATED

Heritage Resources assisted a Tolowa family in locating the grave site of their great grandmother who passed away around 1874. The grave was last visited by family members during the 1940s. Through joint archival research and on-the-ground investigations, we were able to determine the general locality of the grave.

BASKETRY MATERIALS BURNED

One hazel and bear grass burning project was undertaken in partnership with the Tolowa on the Smith River National Recreation Area in order to enhance basketry materials for basketweavers.

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STANISLAUS NATIONAL FOREST



CONSULTATION DAY

On March 30, 1996, the Stanislaus National Forest and Central Sierra Me-Wuk Cultural and Historic Preservation Committee hosted the first annual Native American Consultation Day at the Tuolumne Rancheria. The day was an opportunity to present all Forest projects for the year to interested Indian people from both federally and non-federally recognized tribes, including the Tuolumne Band of the Me-Wuk Tribe, and the American Indian Council of Mariposa County. Information and concerns were exchanged on a Forest program of work that included over 130 projects. In addition, opportunities for future partnerships were identified. The meeting was attended by the Forest Supervisor and Tribal Chairs, and constituted initiation of official consultation for Forest projects under the National Historic Preservation Act and Archaeological Resources Protection Act. The day was very successful at relationship building and information exchange, establishing a tradition that will continue in future years.

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SOURGRASS CAMPGROUND

Sourgrass Campground ground breaking began in July of 1996. Native American participants from several local MiWuk groups and Forest Service archaeologists participated in monitoring the careful removal of 450,000 board feet which surrounded the archaeological site. All worked diligently together cleaning up the areas inside the archaeological site boundaries, burning brush piles and stockpiling poles and cedar bark for future interpretive building materials. A new phase of partnering will begin in the summer of 1997 as construction efforts continue. Native peoples expressed that the January 1997 mud slide will add another interpretive aspect without destroying the archaeological significance of the area.

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Reba Fuller, MeWuk tribal consultant, assists archaeologists Tom Hensiak and David Davis in excavation at Sourgrass Campground archaeological site.

STANISLAUS NATIONAL FOREST CONTINUED

RURAL DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

The Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians has been very successful over the past five years in competing for rural development grants through the Forest Service. During 1996, the Tribe continued working on the Interpretive Center Development Plan. The plan includes the development of a construction plan/budget, a capital campaign, land acquisition feasibility study, business plans for three businesses, and a marketing report for a curation facility. The Tribe also received a grant for a Business Plan and Marketing Analysis for the Native Plant Nursery. The five target markets include novelty tourist based plant sales, retail, wholesale, catalog sales, and government contract growing. The Tribe has a strong interest in continuing to be involved in the Forest Service Development Program.

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TAHOE NATIONAL FOREST



CONSULTATION PROCEDURES

The TNF initiated new procedures for consulting with interested Tribes regarding forest project activities. The new approach will help focus USFS/Tribal consultation on significant issues and streamline procedures.

MAIDU ETHNOBOTANY

The TNF is also developing an illustrated Maidu ethnobotany publication with help from a local artist and local Maidu representatives who are helping to locate native plants and craft items to be illustrated in the publication. The booklet will be geared towards the general public.

FOREST WORKS WITH NEW TRIBE

The TNF will be working with a new (1995) federally recognized Tribe—United Auburn Indian Community of the Auburn Rancheria. So far, the Tribe has been busy getting established, holding elections, and exploring potential business enterprises.

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916/265-4531
916/478-0310 (TDD)

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